

BULLER AGAIN IS NEARING LADYSMITH.

WORLD SITUATION.

Ladysmith is crossed by the sound of Buller's guns, telling that the General is again attempting to relieve the besieged town.

He crossed the Tugela River Friday night, and the battle was fought Saturday. The outcome of this fight is not yet known. No definite news will be permitted to go out until Ladysmith is relieved. In the world from Durban, the cable situation.

Buller crossed probably over Trichard's Drift, and, leaving the Boers to the right, made for the Anton Humes road, one segment now being reached Ladysmith, where he is believed to be.

General Lord Roberts expects that the Maritzburg garrison has become aggressive, advancing the trenches and forcing the Boers to abandon some of their positions and fall back.

The Cape Town Army has a slight patch that General French, Gericke and Kelly-Kenny have 2,000 Boers practically encamped upon Northern Cape Colony.

Otherwise the fighting situation is unchanged, with the exception of skirmishes at several places.

A British correspondent writes to Cape Town that Free State leaders are inquiring what terms they can get if they withdraw their aid from Kruger.

SITUATION SUMMARIZED.

The Boer Force Before Ladysmith May Have Been Weakened.

BY MILTON V. SNYDER, SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Monday, Feb. 5.—Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company.—Just one week ago today General Buller, in an address to Warren's division, told the men to be of good cheer, for he hoped to be in Ladysmith within a week.

That the General's hopes have not yet been realized may be taken as a certainty, for there is no doubt that news of the fall of Ladysmith would not be held up by the War Office.

A host of reports were current yesterday in regard to the progress of the Boer movement in Natal, the general tenor of the reports being that he was once more endeavoring to force his way through the Tugela at Pongolwet's Drift, the day before.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent, Mr. Bennett Burleigh, who is with Buller's army, telegraphed from Spearman's Camp at 6 o'clock last evening that while from an occasional sniping and the advance of a small body of British troops to keep the Boers from marching across the Tugela at Pongolwet's Drift, the day was quiet. He added, however, that the troops were enthusiastic over the prospect of the early advance.

On the other hand, one of the news agency reporters says that Buller crossed the Tugela and is marching toward Ladysmith. It is possible that Lord Donaldson's recent report comes to the most western of the drifts on the Tugela, but it was not an advance in force.

Another agency has a message to the effect that on Saturday Ladysmith heard the gun of a British gun, and that the Boers are again marching toward Ladysmith.

The London Photo-correspondent, representative of the Daily Mail states definitely that General Buller has undoubtedly secured the road to Ladysmith and will reach his objective point this week. This last message may be merely an echo of the General's Spearman's Camp speech, but the other two tell a different story.

It is difficult to understand why, without large reinforcements, General Buller should succeed on this occasion, after failing at Spion Kop, under steady pressure which the strengthened British forces in other fields are causing to exert the Boers have weakened from force before Ladysmith and that Buller is aware of this.

All over town yesterday one heard nothing but talk of the new attempt to relieve Ladysmith. During the day time the general mood was with those who believed that some time or other of what was going on at Delagoa Bay. When he was asked why he was so joyous his reply was that from the reports he had received from a road source he was confident that the losses in the Boer ranks were enormous, considering their limited forces.

"They have," he said, "lost over 3,000 casualties, which they conceal with the utmost care from relatives of their dead. There are thousands of letters at the Boer headquarters which are undelivered because to whom they are addressed are no more."

"I think Buller is all right. The only thing to do with the Boers is to keep barking away at them. A few more such victories as the Boers have had lately, and they will be finished. They are not a match for us, and that they lose when the English can fill up every gap which occurs."

"That is why I am Buller is right, even if he has to retire, again to attack and keep barking away. He has a great deal of fight, courage, mental and physical, and failing short of ammunition, shoes and clothes."

"I have heard on the best authority that General Buller has gone on again, and that the Witwatersrand is already in a position of important importance. He does not propose to lay himself open to further criticism of haste by letting out valuable news prematurely. If Buller only gets just one victory, the war is half over."

"The Boers' chief information usually is to obfuscate. I found out the same impression prevails. There has returned, also, a general feeling of confidence—just exactly the opposite of what is represented in certain foreign newspapers, which describe the English nation as nervous and the military position as being bad."

Today the war everywhere continues—women, just as men, will not talk of anything else. The women especially may not over their first nervousness, and are often their husbands, who need little enough prompting, to go to the front to avouch the losses.

But I do not hear a single person, in either private house, in street, theater, or restaurant, who tolerates any idea of England giving way.

STILL STRONG.

Ladysmith Is Not Yet Ready to Quit.

SPECIAL BY CABLE.

London, Monday, February 5.—Copyright, 1900, by the New York Herald Company. The special correspondent of the Daily Telegraph sends this dispatch:

Portsmouth, Friday.—A resident of Pretoria who had been in Ladysmith since the investment began, but had been released at midnight, has reached Port Elizabeth. He has just reached Port Elizabeth. His arrival will be the climax of the narration, which, on the whole, is very fit and full of hope. There are sufficient provisions to last for some time. Fresh meat is served out every day. Some kinds of medicines have run out.

Crossed the Tugela Friday Night—Battle Fought Friday.

RESULT NOT KNOWN.

"No Definite News Until Ladysmith Is Relieved," Says Durban.

BESIEGED HOPEFUL.

Heard Butler's Guns—Ready for Another Boer Attack.

Durban, Feb. 4.—General Buller crossed the Tugela River Friday night, and is marching on Ladysmith.

No definite news will be permitted to go out until Ladysmith is relieved.

Buller crossed probably over Trichard's Drift, and, leaving the Boers to the right, made for the Anton Humes road, one segment now being reached Ladysmith, where he is believed to be.

General Lord Roberts expects that the Maritzburg garrison has become aggressive, advancing the trenches and forcing the Boers to abandon some of their positions and fall back.

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MAY ARRIVE TO-DAY.

London, Feb. 5.—A special dispatch from Durban, dated Sunday, and referring to General Buller's recrossing the Tugela in an advance upon Ladysmith, says:

"It is probable that General Buller crossed at a spot above the Trichard's Drift and that, leaving the enemy to the right, he is marching to Anton Humes, whence the road to Ladysmith runs almost due east, through a fairly open country.

"It is expected here that he will reach Ladysmith to-morrow (Monday night)."

I have learned that Mr. Watson, the owner of Spion Kop farm, who has been supplying here since the Boers' advance, was a few days ago summoned to Spearman's Camp by General Buller and examined by him as to the country and roads. Bulwer informed him there were higher up the river, two drifts which had not been used for a long time. There is no doubt Buller crossed by these passes.

LADYSMITH HEARS THE GUNS.

Ladysmith, Feb. 4.—By Heliograph via Signal Hill. The garrison were much cheered by hearing General Buller's guns yesterday. The result of the engagement is not known.

The Boers are again massing near Ladysmith; also moving another gun toward Surprise Hill. We are quite ready for them if they contemplate another attack.

Ladysmith, Saturday, Feb. 3.—By Heliograph via Signal Hill. General Buller's guns have been heard again. Otherwise it is very quiet. We are awaiting further news of his progress. There have been no further developments here. Very few Boers remain northeast of the camp. The majority are concentrated south and west. The health of the garrison is improved.

GAINED THE ROAD.

London, Feb. 5.—The Photo-marshaling correspondent, telegraphing yesterday, says:

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SPECIAL BY CABLE.

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Spearman's Camp, Sunday, Feb. 4.—It is brilliant weather again today. There has been no camouflaging here, and beyond a little sheltering on the part of the Boers yesterday there has been no change in the roads and paths of Rietfontein, toward Skiel Drift, all has been quiet.

Our infantry are holding the low, detached ridges on the north bank of Pongolwet Drift, and a few dismounted cavalry from the vicinity of Zwide are holding the ridge. The Boers have held the camp's interior. A slight shelling of Ladysmith continues. Messages are freely interchanged between Buller's and White's camps by night with candle signal lamps and by day with the heliograph. The Boers, by means of their meteorite search and signal lights, have

tried unsuccessfully to stop the transmission of our signals.

The Boers entrenched at the project of a speedy advance.

London, Feb. 5.—Saturday morning, 4 a.m., the sun sets and begins to light. The clouds are thin, bright against Ladysmith. From Uitkyk, General Buller has been commanding the Column, extending from Ladysmith with the 1st Division. The 2nd Division, under General White, is at Pongolwet's Drift. There was a slight skirmish at Pongolwet's. There was no serious firing of the enemy along the ridge in front of the Boers, but the Boers were active, and the British were strengthening the defensive works. Our troops are confident and eager to advance again.

Shelling from Mount Alice, on the lower slopes of ruined Spion Kop, began this morning. General Buller's Drift, and the British advanced, and the Boers became inactive. To the north, hills of combat smoke obscured the position of the Boer guns, bombarding Ladysmith.

The Boers are at Pongolwet's, seem to have stopped, waiting for a favorable moment to strike, and are still engaged in the destruction of their works.

Numbers of them are seen riding or walking along their works in endless zig-zags, numbers of them spilling through their mines. The enemy has certainly made a number of additional positions, but the British are not yet able to determine them.

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